

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:**Summary of Amendments to Claims**

Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claims 2 and 12 into claims 1 and 9 respectively and canceled claims 2 and 12 accordingly. Claims 1, 3-11 and 16-18 remain pending in the application. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections and Objections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,841,903 to Bird in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,008,974 to Weber. The Examiner also objected to claims 2-3, 6, 8 and 11-12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for identifying allowable subject matter. Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of allowable claims 2 and 12 into claims 1 and 9 respectively. Therefore, claims 1 and 9, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

Claims 3-8 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and therefore incorporate all the claim limitations of claim 1 and add additional limitations. Therefore, claims 3-8 are patentable at least for the same reasons with respect to claim 1 and they are even more patentable because they add additional claim limitations.

Claims 10 and 11 both depend from claim 9 and therefore incorporate all the claim limitations of claim 9 and add additional limitations. Therefore, claims 10 and 11 are patentable at least for the same reasons with respect to claim 9 and they are even more patentable because they add additional claim limitations.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claim rejections and objections are overcome and withdrawal thereof is requested.

Conclusion:

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees, including any extension and/or excess claim fees, any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to Goodwin Procter LLP Deposit Account No. 06-0923.

Respectfully submitted for Applicant,



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